

5. Substance use is a pervasive part of the subculture which criminals inhabit. Persons in this subculture frequently use alcohol and illicit drugs, because they are a standard part of the socializing process among their companions, and intoxication may not be negatively sanctioned.
6. Those who are dependent or abusing illicit substances often commit predatory crimes, such as robbery, burglary, theft, and fraud, to finance purchases of the substances they use.
7. Illicit drug markets are a breeding ground for criminal violence as dealers compete for turf and try to protect themselves from "rip-offs" by street criminals, other dealers, and addicts. Low-level drug dealers, who are frequently also drug users, must resort to illegal means to protect themselves

As the foregoing discussion suggests, the links between substance use and criminality are complex. Some substance abusers commit crimes to support their habit. Many persons who commit crimes use alcohol and drugs either to facilitate their criminal activity or better fit into the subculture they inhabit. Among many substance users and criminals, drug use and criminal behavior become inextricably combined aspects of a deviant or antisocial lifestyle.

The Prevalence of Substance Abuse/Dependence among Arrestees

This correlation between substance abuse and criminal behavior is reflected among persons who are arrested and incarcerated. The National Institute of Justice's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program consistently finds that most arrestees nationally were using one or more drugs before arrest. Depending on the DUF site, between 48% and 82% of male arrestees tested positive for one or more drugs in 1996 and rates for female arrestees were generally only slightly lower. Detected drug use among arrestees was a strong predictor of prior arrests (National Institute of Justice 1997).

Ten states besides Tennessee have conducted SANTA or similar studies of arrestees and have uniformly found high rates of substance use, abuse, and dependence in their sample populations. The states that have conducted assessments of substance abuse treatment need among arrestees find that between 15% and 56% of adult arrestees have diagnosed, lifetime alcohol use disorders, between 5% and 21% have lifetime marijuana use disorders, between 12% and 52% have lifetime cocaine use disorders, and between 1% and 27% have lifetime opiate use disorders (Kline and Rodriguez 1996, Substance Abuse Epidemiology Unit 1995, TASC, Inc. 1996, Blane et al. 1995, Hudik et al. 1996, Baumer et al. 1995, Stephens et al. 1997a, Stephens et al. 1997b, Alemagno et al. 1997, Kroliczak et al. 1996, Institute of Public Affairs 1997, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1997). The prevalence of substance use disorders that these states found among juvenile